

SOWERBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1909.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Report for the year 1909.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.—The District is situate on the dip-slope of a Millstone-grit formation, the rocks consisting of alternating beds of sandstone and shales which dip roughly from N.W. to S.E. The lie of the strata is of great importance as regards contamination of wells from impurities higher up. The contour of the District is mountainous, and the surface, with the exception of some little agriculture done chiefly for the purpose of improving the sward, is laid out in grass.

A considerable quantity of milk is produced which is principally sold as new milk, the overplus being made into butter.

OCCUPATION.—The inhabitants are chiefly employed in the foundries and factories in the valleys, many of them combining factory work with agricultural pursuits. As a result the physique of the people will compare most favourably with that of the town dwellers in neighbouring districts.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The population of your District, estimated to the middle of 1909, was 3487. This is arrived at by taking twenty from the estimated population for 1908, and in this way allowing for a gradual migration to more populous centres.

BIRTHS.—Males, 19; Females, 24; Total, 43. Birth-rate, 12.3 per thousand per annum, against 13.4 per thousand during 1908, 12.1 during 1907, and 12.6 during 1906. The birth-rate for England and Wales during 1909 was 25.6. The remarkably low Birth-rate in your District may be partly explained by the fact that so many of the young married couples prefer to make their homes in the neighbouring towns.

DEATHS.—Males, 15; Females, 23; Total, 38. Death-rate, 10.8 per thousand per annum, against 11.1 per thousand during 1908, 13.3 during 1907, and 10.7 during 1906. The Death-rate for England and Wales during 1909 was 14.5.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Death-rate, 93 per thousand Births registered in your District, against 109 for England and Wales.

Mortality at subjoined Ages and Causes, see Tables.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—During the year twenty-nine cases have been reported, as against six cases during 1908, ten cases during 1907, two cases during 1906, and seven cases during 1905.

Scarlet Fever.—Twenty cases reported during the year, chiefly in the Mill Bank locality. There was one death from this disease. The last case reported was in September, so the District has been clear for the last quarter of the year.

Diphtheria.—Two cases reported during the year. Type, mild.

Typhoid.—Six cases reported during the year. The cases were not associated, and it is difficult to say what was the source of infection in the various cases. One case of Typhoid died.

Erysipelas.—One case reported during the year.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Dwellings are built of stone and are, as a rule, scrupulously clean. There are no unhealthy areas and no overcrowding. The backyards and streets are mostly paved, especially where the houses are grouped together, as at Sowerby Town, Mill Bank and Triangle. The sink pipes are trapped; practically all disconnected.

SEWAGE.—The new system of sewage is practically completed. Arrangements have been made with neighbouring Districts for disposal of sewage matter.

SCAVENGING.—Done by owners and tenants.

PRIVY MIDDENS.—Covered.

WATER CLOSETS.—Tub and Water Closets in use, mostly the latter.

COWSHEDS.—Most of them I found exceptionally clean, whenever visited, but there are others which might still be improved in that respect. I would again recommend Cow-keepers to pay more attention to the cleanliness of their cows and especially the udder and hind quarters, and to see that the persons who milk the cows wear clean overalls (or “brats”) and wash their hands carefully before milking. It is a very unpleasant fact that particles of manure frequently find their way into milk, and where a cow has Tuberculosis, even though the udder be apparently not affected, you may in this way have the Tubercle germs introduced into the milk. Again, a cow ailing with Tuberculosis, if kept in the confined atmosphere of the ordinary cow-shed, may easily contaminate the milk of other healthy cows. A diseased cow may, without showing any trace of disease in the udder, yield milk containing germs of Tubercle. The chief source of infection of milk with Tubercle is the udder, so I must impress on all Cow-keepers the absolute necessity of not using the milk from a cow where there is any evidence of disease in the udder, except as food for pigs, and then only after boiling the milk thoroughly. Report of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, 1907.—“There can be no doubt that in a certain number of cases the Tuberculosis occurring in the human subject, and especially in children, is the direct result of the introduction into the human body of the Bacillus of Bovine Tuberculosis; and there also can be no doubt that in the majority at least of these cases the Bacillus is introduced through cows’ milk.”

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—One. Floor repaired, now in good order. Visited at time of slaughtering.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES, CANAL BOATS AND OFFENSIVE TRADES.—None in the District.

MILK is of good quality.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—There has been no occasion to examine under this Act.

CARCASES UNFIT FOR FOOD.—Nil.

ENDEMIC DISEASES.—NIL.


BURIAL GROUNDS.—Five.

WATER SUPPLY.—The District has a good and plentiful supply, Sowerby Town being supplied from the reservoir at Sowerby Green, and the outlying parts being dependent on springs, which are numerous and yield well. New pipes, properly jointed, have been laid this year from the head springs supplying the reservoir at Sowerby Green, as there was evidence previously of contamination from surface water during rainy weather.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—Three Factories and one Workshop giving employment in the District; condition satisfactory.

HOME-WORK.—No lists received.

SCHOOL INSPECTION.—Medical Inspection of the three Schools in the District is now in full working order, and it is to be hoped that parents will see that the suggestions given them about their children by the “School Doctor” are carried out, as otherwise many ailments of the children, which at an early date may be easily remedied, if not attended to promptly may leave a permanent mark.



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Scarlatina has been very prevalent this year in your District, part of a wave of this disease which has been passing over the West Riding. This epidemic will have a marked influence on the health of the children, owing to the association of ear trouble with the disease. At the same time there have been some cases of an anomalous type, with diseases of the ear, amounting practically to an epidemic in the case of one School. Attention was drawn to this condition at the time.

METEOROLOGICAL.—Rainfall during 1909: 41.31 inches.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—No Health Visitors appointed. Pamphlets on Infant feeding are distributed in the District.

MIDWIVES' ACT.—Lying-in cases attended by Registered Midwives.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS' ACT.—Not adopted.

CONCLUSION.—I have been constantly in touch with the various parts of the District, and believe it to be healthy and satisfactory from a sanitary point of view.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOHN A. ADAMS, B.A., M.B.

SOWERBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and previous Years.

Year.	Populat'n estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District	Deaths of Non- Resdnts regist'd in Public Institu- tions in the District	Deaths of Resdnts regist'd in Public Institu- tions beyond the District	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate*	Under 1 Year of age		At all Ages.					Numb'r	Rate*
				Numb'r	Rate per 1000 Births Registered	Numb'r	Rate*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1899	3710	71	19'1	8	112'0	48	12'9				48	12'9
1900	3680	60	18'4	5	73'5	67	15'5				67	15'5
1901	3653	46	12'5	6	130'0	44	12'1			1	45	12'3
1902	3640	64	17'6	2	31'2	38	10'4			1	39	10'6
1903	3617	46	12'7	6	130'0	49	13'3			4	53	14'6
1904	3587	51	14'2	3	58'8	52	14'5			2	54	15'0
1905	3567	45	12'6	2	40'0	36	10'0			1	37	10'3
1906	3547	45	12'6	3	66'6	38	10'7			1	39	10'9
1907	3527	43	12'1	3	69'7	47	13'3			2	49	13'8
1908	3507	47	13'4	3	63'8	39	11'1			1	40	11'4
Averages for Years 1899 - 1908	3603	51	14'5	4	77'5	46	12'3			1	47	12'7
1909	3487	43	12'3	4	93'0	38	10'8			5	43	12'3

*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13, calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water): 2399. Total population at all ages: 3653 (1901 Census).

Number of inhabited houses; 922 (at 1901 Census). Average number of persons per house: 3'1 (at 1901 Census).

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District: Nil.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District: Royal Halifax Infirmary, Poor Law Hospital, Halifax, and West Riding Asylums.

Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District: Nil.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District: No.

SOWERBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified
during the Year 1909.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in whole District.							Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Undr 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 & up-wds.	
Small-pox ..								
Cholera								
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	2			2				
Erysipelas ..	1					1		
Scarlet Fever ..	20		6	14				
Typhus Fever ..								
Enteric Fever ..	6			2	1	3		
Relapsing Fever.								
Continued Fever.								
Puerperal Fever .								
Plague								
Totals ..	29		6	18	1	4		Nil

Isolation Hospital: Lower Clough Bank (provided by Sowerby Urban District Council), in Sowerby Urban District.

Total available Beds: Six.

No. of Diseases that can be concurrently treated: One.

SOWERBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TABLE IV.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1909.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all Ages of "Residents" belonging to localities, whether occurring in or beyond District.	Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-residents in Public Institutions in District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox									
Measles									
Scarlet fever	1		1						
Whooping-cough	1	1							
Diphtheria (includ'g Membran'us croup)									
Croup									
Fever { Typhus									
Enteric	1					1			
Other continued									
Epidemic influenza									
Cholera									
Plague									
Diarrhœa									
Enteritis									
Gastritis									
Puerperal fever									
Erysipelas									
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	3					3			
Other tuberculous diseases									
Cancer, malignant disease	4					3	1		
Bronchitis	9	1	2			3	3		
Pneumonia									
Pleurisy									
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ..	1					1			
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver									
Venereal Diseases									
Premature birth									
Diseases and accidents of parturition ..	1					1			
Heart diseases	1						1		
Accidents	1					1			
Suicides									
All other causes	20	2		1		10	7		
All causes	43	4	3	1		23	12		Nil

SOWERBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1909.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total under 1 Year.
All Causes	Certified	1	1			2	1			1								4
	Uncertified																	
Common Infectious Diseases	Small-pox																	
	Chicken-pox																	
	Measles																	
	Scarlet Fever																	
	Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ..						1											1
	Whooping Cough																	
	Diarrhœa, all forms																	
Diarrhoeal Diseases	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis																	
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh																	
	Premature Birth																	
Wasting Diseases	Congenital Defects	1				1			1									2
	Injury at Birth																	
	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation																	
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus																	
Tuberculous Diseases	Tuberculous Meningitis																	
	Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica																	
	Other Tuberculous Diseases ..																	
Other Causes	Erysipelas																	
	Syphilis																	
	Rickets																	
	Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ..																	
	Convulsions																	
	Bronchitis						1	1										1
	Laryngitis																	
	Pneumonia																	
	Suffocation, overlying																	
	Other causes																	
		1	1	2	1	1												4

Population (estimated to middle of 1909): 3487.

Births in the Year: Legitimate, 43; Illegitimate, nil.

Deaths in the Year of Legitimate Infants, 4; Illegitimate Infants, nil.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages: 38.

SOWERBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



NUISANCE INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

For the Year ending 31st December, 1909.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to forward you the Report of Nuisance Inspector for the past year.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—Several inspections of the Dairies and Cowsheds have been made during the year, and there is a great improvement—both as to light and ventilation. Two notices have been served on owners to provide more air-space and ventilation, and both notices have been complied with.

WATER SUPPLY.—Seven notices have been served on owners to provide a pure supply of water where found to be polluted. These, in all cases, have been complied with.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—The Factories and Workshops in the District (three) have been found in a satisfactory condition.

BAKEHOUSES AND SLAUGHTERHOUSE.—There are three Bakehouses and one Slaughterhouse in the District. These, on inspection, have been found to be well-lighted, well-ventilated and clean.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—During the year twenty cases of Scarlatina, six cases of Enteric, two cases of Diphtheria, and one case of Erysipelas were reported. The usual precautions were taken and premises disinfected.

NOTICES TO ABATE NUISANCES.—Nine notices have been served on owners to abate nuisances arising from bad drainage, and three to provide additional ashpit and privy accommodation. In all cases the notices have been complied with.

The total number of notices served during the year are 21.

Nine notices to remedy defective drainage.

Three notices to provide ashpit accommodation.

Seven notices to provide a pure water supply.

Two notices to provide air-space and ventilation to Cowsheds.

Total number of nuisances in hand at the close of 1908, four; at close of 1909, none.

Reported during 1909, twenty-one; abated during 1909, twenty-five.

Number of Schools in the District, three.

Number of Burial Grounds in the District, five.

Number of Slaughterhouses in the District, one.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES HINCHLIFFE,

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF SOWERBY.

Annual Reports

OF
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Inspector of Nuisances

FOR 1909.

Sowerby Bridge:
Wm. Ackroyd, Printer, Chronicle Office.